

CLAIMS

1. A method for allowing a user (2) to use a radiotelephone terminal (1) as a remote control for an automatic device (3) providing one or more pay services, characterized in that it comprises a calling step from the user (2) to a central server (5), through the radiotelephone network, the user  
5 (2) dialling a control number with the help of his/her terminal (1), a step for identifying and storing the control number and the identification number of the terminal (1) in a memory (53) of the central server (5), followed by a step during which the central server (5) hangs up without having opened the line, a step for identifying the device (3) at least from a control number, and a step  
10 for investigating and checking the rights of the user (2), then, if the user is authorized to use his/her terminal (1) to remotely control a device (3), the method also comprises a step for transmitting by the central server (5) to the device (3), a command for a determined operation, and a step for executing the operation by the device (3).

15

2. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the control number is indicated to the user who wants to use his/her radiotelephone terminal (1) as a remote control for an automatic device (3), by a first interface (31) of the device (3) orally.

20

3. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that, the control number is indicated to the user who wants to use his/her radiotelephone terminal (1) as a remote control for an automatic device (3), by a message written on a first interface (31) of the device (3).

25

4. The method according to any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the step for identifying the device (3) consists of consulting, by the central server (5), a look-up table (52) between the control numbers and the types of devices (3), each device being unambiguously identified by a control  
30 number, and extracting the device (3) type from the look-up table (52), from

the control number received by the central server (5).

5           5.     The method according to any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the step for identifying the device (3) consists of a step for querying the  
operator (6) by the central server (5) to be informed on the geographical  
localization of the user (2), i.e., a defined area covered by the base ground  
station(s) (4) near which the user (2) and the device (3) are found, followed  
by a step for consulting, by the central server (5), a look-up table (52)  
between the control numbers, the devices (3) and the geographical  
10   localization of the devices (3), each device being unambiguously identified by  
a control number and a geographical localization, and extracting the device  
(3) type from the look-up table (52), from the control number received by the  
central server (5).

15           6.     The method according to any of claims 4 or 5, characterized in that the step for investigating and checking the rights of the user (2) consists  
of consulting, by the central server (5), a list of registered users (51), this list  
comprising identification numbers, notably the numbers of users (2)  
authorized to use their radiotelephone terminal (1) as a remote control for  
20   one or several determined automatic devices (3), and comparing the  
identification and control numbers received with the list of registered users.

          7.     The method according to claim 6, characterized in that, if the  
user is not authorized to use his/her radiotelephone terminal (1) as a remote  
25   control for the device (3), the central server (5) establishes a radiotelephone  
communication with the user (2) and notifies him/her that he/she is not  
authorized to use his/her radiotelephone terminal (1) as a remote control for  
the device (3).

30           8.     The method according to any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the step for transmitting by the central server (5) to the device (3), a  
command for a determined operation, consists in sending an execution

command message, through the radiotelephone network or through the wired network, in order to order the device (3) to execute the operation and in receiving the execution command message by a radiotelephone communications module (32) of the device (3).

5

9. The method according to any of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the device (3) executes the operation by means of a control module (33).

10

10. The method according to claim 9, characterized in that, if the device (3) proposes a single service, execution of the operation by the device (3) consists of the device (3) providing said service to the user (2).

15

11. The method according to claim 9, characterized in that, if the device (3) proposes several services, a different control number being associated with each service, execution of the operation by the device (3) consists of the device (3) providing to the user (2) the service associated with the control number dialled by the user (2).

20

12. The method according to claim 9, characterized in that, if the device (3) proposes several services, a unique control number being associated with the device (3), execution of the operation by the device (3) consists of the device (3) enabling a second tactile interface of the device (3) so that the user selects a service, and in that the device (3) provides the service selected by the user (2).

25

13. The method according to any of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that, if the device (3) has provided the desired service to the user (2), this step for executing the operation by the device (3) is followed by a step for storing the service provided by the device (3) in a memory (34) of the device (3), and by a step for billing the service by the radiotelephone operator (6) via the central server (5) and the device (3).

30

14. The method according to claim 13, characterized in that, the billing step consists in sending a successful operation execution message from the device (3), via its communications module (32), to the central server (5), the successful operation execution message comprising at least an identifier of the device (3), the performed service, the price of the service and the time at which the service was provided.

15. The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the successful operation execution message is stored in the memory (53) of the central server (5) and associated by the central server (5) with the identification number of the terminal (1) of the user (2), the central server (5) then sending to the operator (6), a message for billing the service to the user (2), the billing message comprising at least the identification number of the terminal of the user (2) and the price that the latter should pay.

16. The method according to claim 15, characterized in that the operator (6) stores the billing message in a memory (61) of the server of the operator (6).

17. The method according to any of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that, if the device (3) has not provided the desired service to the user (2), the device (3) uses its first interface (31) to inform the user (2) that an error occurred, and sends an error message to the central server (5), the error message comprising at least an identifier of the device (3), the service which was desired, and the time at which the error occurred.

18. The method according to claim 17, characterized in that, the central server (5) stores the error message in its memory (53) and sends an information message to the user (2) through the radiotelephone network to inform him/her that an error occurred.